

The decision was made after the WSLs' online workshop ended:

The students are asked to use any type of text... it is no longer an obligatory essay. Still, students are asked to present a reasoned argument be it argumentative or balanced using a type of text of their choice. The stimulus text will be a short one (about 70 words max).

The only change appears in the guide under HL P2 Section B. Yes, it won't be an essay but please do not mistake reasoned for argumentative. Reasoned just means well-justified. The student could adopt an argumentative approach or write a polemic for that matter. the response has to be persuasive: good examples, coherent and cohesive response.